

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



09-10

PLAN FISCAL 2009-10

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

Statement from the Minister



On November 7, 2007, the people of Saskatchewan voted for change and entrusted a new government with responsibility for delivering on the promise of Saskatchewan and serving the people of our great province.

I accepted the responsibility for helping to deliver on our Government's plan for Securing the Future. I present to you, within these pages, the Ministry of Agriculture's Plan for 2009-10. In this Plan we identify how the Ministry of Agriculture aligns with our Government's vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

The 2009-10 Budget enables a number of important initiatives and delivers on our promises. In 2009-10, the Ministry of Agriculture will provide enhanced regional services to farmers and ranchers, put Crown Land back in the hands of producers, bring AgriStability administration home to improve program delivery, provide an improved Crop Insurance program based on the program review recommendations, deliver a Comprehensive Pest Control Program, and expand water infrastructure programming province-wide. I will report on this Plan and my Mandate Letter commitments in the Ministry's annual report.

*The Honourable Bob Bjornrud
Minister Responsible for Agriculture*

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is to enable a prosperous market-driven agricultural industry through a supportive legislative framework, policies, and programs and services.

Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain **Economic Growth** for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy

Key 2009-10 Actions

Ensure producers have access to effective business risk management programs

- Strengthen Crop Insurance through implementation of results from the Crop Insurance Review.
- Administer AgriStability in Saskatchewan beginning with the 2009 program year.
- Fully fund AgriStability which provides income support when a producer experiences larger income losses.
- Fully fund AgriInvest which provides flexible coverage for small income declines.

Develop a regional presence to ensure farmers, ranchers, producer groups and industry have access to services and production and business information

- Provide extension services to clients in regional areas.
- Open three new regional offices in Kindersley, Moose Jaw, and Watrous in time for the 2009 growing season.
- Fully staff our 10 regional offices with crop, livestock, forage, and farm management specialists.
- Develop and deliver a new approach for service delivery to farmers, ranchers, and agri-business.
- Provide diagnostic services in the areas of plant health, insects, weed control, and herbicide resistance screening at the Crop Protection Laboratory.

Collaborate with federal and provincial governments and industry on key agriculture industry issues

- Complete Growing Forward bilateral framework agreement negotiations.
- Develop and implement Growing Forward programming in the areas of:
 - ~ water infrastructure development;
 - ~ food safety, biosecurity and traceability;
 - ~ farm and value-added business development; and,
 - ~ environmental farm planning.
- Manage and enhance intergovernmental and trade relationships with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the signatories' agricultural sectors.
- Manage and enhance federal/provincial relationships in order to develop sound agricultural policy and programs that benefit the agriculture industry.
- Administer the interest-only portion of the federal Advanced Payments Program (APP) in Saskatchewan.
- Collaborate with First Nations in agricultural programming.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Create an attractive business climate for the agriculture industry and establish the infrastructure that will support business development	• Sell farm land held by the Crown to farmers and ranchers through delivery of the Agricultural Crown Land Sale Program. • Continue irrigation rehabilitation and irrigation services. • Contribute policy advice to the national rail service review to support development of a commercially-driven grain transportation system. • Work with industry on establishing greater marketing choice for wheat and barley. • Facilitate growth of Saskatchewan's livestock industry, including cattle, bison, and sheep. The Livestock Loan Guarantee Program (LLG) provides producers with alternative financing options to purchase livestock or construct or expand feedlot facilities. • Offer supplemental grazing to Saskatchewan livestock producers under the Saskatchewan Pastures Program (SPP) in Crown land pastures located around the province.
Invest in progressive and relevant research, innovation and commercialization	• Provide research funding through the Agriculture Development Fund to support research and development. • Negotiate a multi-year Strategic Research Program funding agreement with the University of Saskatchewan to fund agriculture and food research. • Negotiate financial support agreements with agricultural research institutions. • Support the development and diversification of Saskatchewan's beef industry through the funding of projects related to production research, technology transfer, and development and promotion of new products. • Provide funding to eight regional applied research and demonstration sites through the Saskatchewan Agri-ARM (Agriculture-Applied Research Management) Program.
Work with industry to review and develop a supportive regulatory framework that reflects current practices and fosters growth and prosperity in the industry	• Initiate a five-year review of all regulations administered by the Ministry. • Consult with stakeholders on potential changes to regulations. • Confirm rightful ownership of livestock offered for sale and of livestock transported in and out of the province via the Livestock Inspection service. • Protect the environment through administering licensing of pesticide applicators, services, and vendors.
Promote the agriculture sector and its benefits	• Create a Youth Advisory Committee to encourage young people to choose agriculture as a career and to help identify barriers to entry into farming and ranching. • Work with other ministries to develop actions for attracting immigrants and investment to the agriculture industry. • Provide financial support where appropriate for agriculture promotion and industry partnership (e.g. Agribition). • Provide production information, highlight agricultural issues and activities occurring in the province's agriculture sector in the Ministry's monthly newsletter for Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers, Agriview. • Administer an apprenticeship-style, on-farm skill-training program called the Green Certificate Farm Training Program. • Invite qualified farm owners/operators and other agriculture experts to consider immigrating to Saskatchewan under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP).

Performance Measures

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

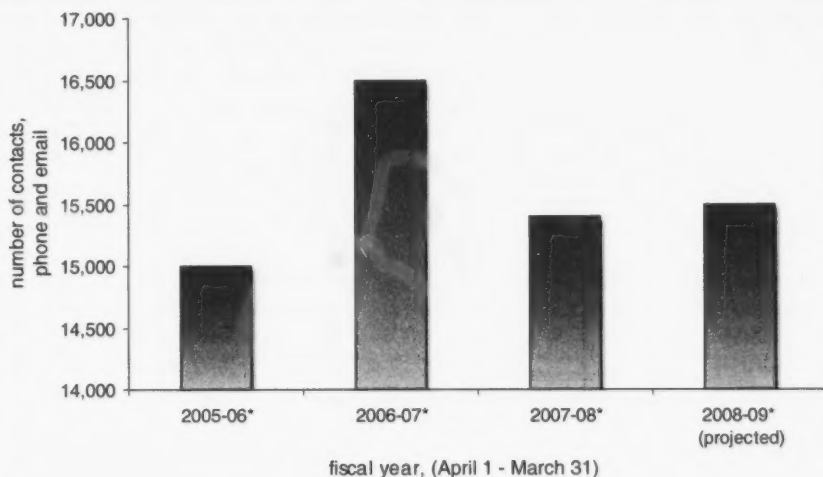
Applications for the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP)

Category	Applications	Completed projects
	March - December 2008	
Community well	79	-
On-farm projects	3,304	-

Significance of the Measure

Since FRWIP is a new program the measure presented is a benchmark for future tracking. The number of applications for the program provides a measure of interest in the program. The number of projects completed will provide the annual measure of success for the program.

Number of contacts with farmers



*AKC only, will include regional offices in future years

Significance of the Measure

Changes in the number of contacts with farmers will enable the Ministry to gauge the popularity and usefulness of the technical and support services that are made available. The number of inquiries tends to rise if the sector is stressed by unusual weather, agronomic or economic factors. The number of inquiries to the Agricultural Knowledge Centre (AKC), is an approximate measure of the Ministry's services, at best, as inquiries will vary from year-to-year. The Ministry is expanding its regional presence and expects that the number of contacts will include regional office clients in the future.

Measure

Baseline / Trend Line Information

Client satisfaction survey

	2005*	2007*
Courteousness of employees	96%	99%
Knowledge of employees	83%	88%
Usefulness of information/solution	80%	82%
Communication skills	96%	97%
Amount of time required to resolve problem	82%	85%
Overall service provided	76%	85%

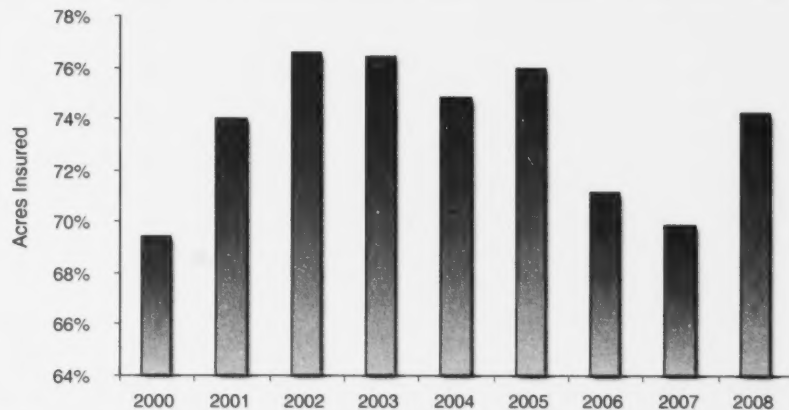
*AKC only, will include regional offices in future years

Significance of the Measure

This measure provides an indication of the satisfaction of Ministry clients in their interactions with the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC). On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "not satisfied at all" and 5 being "completely satisfied", satisfaction with AKC client service has increased between the two surveys. The percentages represent those clients who responded as "satisfied" and "very satisfied".

The Ministry is expanding its regional presence and expects that the client satisfaction survey will include regional office clients in the future.

Acreage insured under Crop Insurance as a percentage of total seeded acres



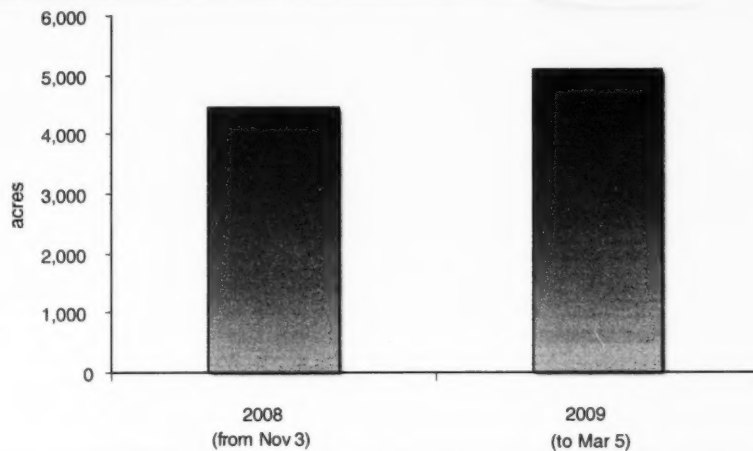
Significance of the Measure

One measure of the effectiveness of Crop Insurance programming as a business risk management tool is producer participation. This is calculated in terms of the actual acreage that is insured compared to the total possible acreage that could be insured. It is inferred that a high or increasing level of participation indicates effective programming, while a low or declining participation rate indicates the program is less effective or trending in that direction. Fluctuations in coverage can also be expected based on individual circumstances and annual program options.

Producers had raised concerns about the adequacy of the coverage offered by the crop insurance program and based on consultations in 2008, significant changes have been made to the program for 2009.

Measure

**Number of acres of
Crown land sold**

Baseline / Trend Line Information**Significance of the Measure**

This measure gauges the success of putting Crown Land back into the hands of farmers and ranchers. The chart shows acres sold in 2008 since the Agricultural Crown Land Sales Program began on November 3rd and acres sold in 2009, up to March 5th.

Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

2009-10 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	7,477
Policy and Planning	9,650
Industry Assistance	10,386
Research and Technology	15,148
Regional Services	20,076
Irrigation and Water Infrastructure	11,632
Land Management	24,071
Financial Programs	5,963
Business Risk Management	376,650
Total Appropriation	481,053
Capital Asset Acquisitions	-
Capital Asset Amortization	2,391
Total Expense	483,444
Ministry FTE	376.5
Revolving Fund FTE	124.1
FTE Staff Complement	500.6

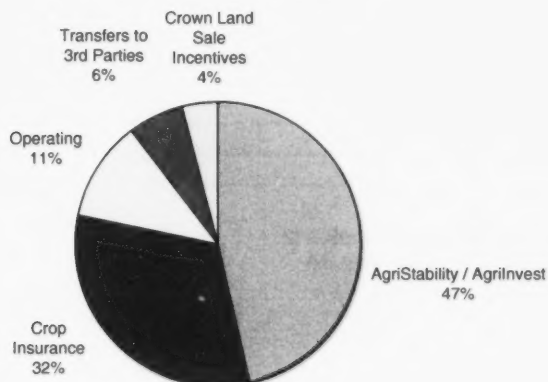
For more information, see the Budget Estimates at:
<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10>

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The following are key announcements being made in the 2009-10 Budget:

- Improved risk management for farmers including:
 - ~ Fully funding AgriStability and AgriInvest (additional funding of \$108.1 million).
 - ~ Strengthening crop insurance by providing \$25.2M in additional funding including \$20.0M in enhancements as a result of implementing the 2008 Program Review recommendations.
 - ~ Bringing the administration of AgriStability home to Saskatchewan (\$22 million of funding).
- An internal restructuring to improve regional service delivery to producers. Three new regional office locations will be opened in Moose Jaw, Kindersley and Watrous in 2009-10.
- Provide \$20.2 million for the cost of incentives under the Crown Land Sale Incentive Program, aimed at putting Crown land back in the hands of farmers.
- Provide funding for non-business risk management programming under the Growing Forward Agreement including water development, farm and value-added business development, environmental farm planning, food safety and innovation and research (\$5 million).
- Deliver a Comprehensive Pest Control Program (\$4 million).

Ministry Spending by Program



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca or call 1-866-680-0006 (Toll Free) or (306) 787-0490 (Regina) for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

